

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : EUR - Mr. [unclear]

DATE: August 3, 1952

FROM : EE - Mr. [unclear]

SUBJECT: Call of [unclear] ZOG (Albania), Scheduled for 4:00 p.m.
August 3, 1952.

REVIEWED BY: J. C. [unclear]
CLASSIFIED BY: [unclear]
DECLASSIFY ON: [unclear]
EXEMPTION CODE: [unclear]
DATE: [unclear]

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Zog was introduced to the Department through an intermediary (Mr. Frary, alias Baron von [unclear]) that he feels that the information he has to convey to you will require some two hours with the use of a competent interpreter. It is recommended that you suggest - after an appropriate interval of general discussion - that he discuss details with Mr. Campbell, as the Officer in Charge of Albanian Affairs.

In addressing Zog directly it is recommended that you employ the term, if any, MEET BEY, or merely "Sir", which will show sufficient respect without political connotations to which he might take exception or on which he might later try to capitalize.

As a matter of incidental interest, and one which Zog will perhaps raise at the opening of your interview with him, Mr. Frary has expressed Zog's concern lest the interpreter furnished by the Department be antipathetic to Zog (and, obviously to his pretensions to the Albanian throne). EE refused to inform Zog (Frary) of the identity of the Department's interpreter, merely assuring him that he would be an American who enjoyed the Department's fullest confidence. Your interpreter will in fact be Mr. Stephen Peters, of DRS.

There is attached a briefing memorandum containing current information on subjects which it is anticipated Zog may raise during his interview with you.

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Rev. [unclear]
Ent. [unclear]

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALBANIAN SITUATION

ZOG'S PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Zog, or Ahmet Bey Zogu, is one of a long line of hereditary tribal (and semi-feudal) chieftains of the Mati region in north-central Albania. In the mid 1920's, and following political activities of the usual Balkan variety, Zog gained control of the Albanian government and, in 1928, proclaimed himself King of Albania. The United States recognized him as sovereign of Albania until the Italian annexation in April 1939, at which time Zog and his queen (Geraldine: an Hungarian countess born of an American mother) fled to Egypt via Greece. With the exception of a sojourn in England during the war, Zog and Geraldine have since resided in Alexandria, Egypt, where Zog has occasionally talked to US officials and Geraldine has from time to time been in contact with Mrs. Caffery.

Although the United States did not recognize the Italian annexation of Albania, the Albanian Legation in Washington was closed and Zog was not permitted by the Allies to organize a government in exile during World War II. The US was preparing to establish diplomatic relations with the Hoxha government in 1945, but we did not do so because of the refusal of Hoxha to undertake to respect the international commitments of pre-war Albanian governments. Although Zog was thus the last chief of state whom we recognized in Albania, nonetheless we have not wished to consider him as head of state, and he was granted a visitor's visa as a private individual. However, we do not wish to rebuff him, as he may be important in working for the liberation of Albania and may even some day regain the throne.

ORGANIZATION OF ALBANIAN EMIGRATION: THE NOFA

Prior to the formation of a "committee" in Yugoslavia the National Committee for a Free Albania was the only overtly organized group of Albanian exiles on a supra-party level. The executive committee is comprised of five members technically representing the Monarchist Party (Legaliteti), the League of Peasants and Small Farmers, and the National Front (Balli Kombetar "BK"). The only important elements excluded from the committee are: the National Independent Bloc (Blokus Kombetar Independent - "BKI"), a grouping of neo-fascists principally important in Italy and fairly well tainted with pro-Italian activities during the war; and a wing of the Balli Kombetar under Ali KLISSURA which recently split off from the parent organization, the latter being still represented on the committee through

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its president, Zog. Current political maneuvering among the exiles centers around the possible inclusion of the committee to include the President and possibly the major portion of the Balli Kombetari, individuals associated with the KBI but not the organization itself, and/or independents possibly subservient to Zog.

ZOG'S POSITION TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Zog has taken no formal part in the political organization of the Albanian emigration. Although the so-called Monarchist Party (Legaliteti) is formally committed to Zog's restoration, he himself has failed to recognize it as "his party", apparently preferring the pretense that he is King of all the Albanians and awaiting an opportunity to enter the scene as the man on the white horse. This is largely a mere pretense since there are strong anti-monarchist elements both within Albania and in the emigration.

Notwithstanding Zog's formal abstinence from political matters, he has in fact been playing an increasingly active, if still unpublicized, role in the affairs of the Albanian exiles themselves, perhaps feeling that the time has come for him to make his bid for Western support. The two representatives of the Legaliteti on the KQFA are in fact "his men"; and there are evidences that he or his agents have been active in endeavoring to discredit the Dosti faction of the BK (currently in control of the KQFA) for the apparent purpose of forcing a reorganization of the committee and indirectly inducing the Western powers to recognize his own importance to the common effort as a factor capable of arbitrating between and reconciling the several opposing elements. In his efforts to date he has primarily concerned himself with Albanian exile colonies in the Middle East.

SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH ZOG MAY RAISE

It has been reported that Zog recently addressed a personal message to Tito indirectly inquiring whether and under what circumstances the Yugoslavs might be prepared to collaborate with him. According to the same information, Tito's reply indicated in general but quite definite terms that he was not disposed to collaborate with Zog, and that he was not interested in the overthrow of the Soviet regime but rather in the replacement of

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some four or five key figures. We have no evidence that the Greeks seek to collaborate with Zog, although on one occasion they did propose to work with his son on the NCPA, Niaz Kipi.

Zog's gambit vis a vis Tito, if in fact it took place, was undoubtedly prompted by the creation, in May, of an Albanian emigre organization on Yugoslav soil, ostensibly charged with caring for the welfare of Albanian refugees, but quite apparently also entrusted with the task of preparing whatever political organization the Yugoslavs feel necessary and desirable to ensure them a free hand to counter future eastern moves in reference to Albania. The Yugoslavs have already violently attacked the "reactionary" Albanian emigres, the NCPA in particular, and, as a result, there has already been some movement within Albanian emigre circles in response to the Yugoslav initiative. There have also been some reports of abortive efforts on both sides to come to some modus vivendi, but we are not fully informed of these and in any event the possibilities for success of such moves are more apparent than real.

We have been informed that Zog believes it probable that, now that the Yugoslavs have set up their own organization in almost overt competition with the NCPA, the Greeks intend soon to follow suit. Zog allegedly intends to discuss this situation with you and, although we do not know in what direction his thinking trends, it seems probable that he will argue that unless his services are enlisted immediately to draw all the various elements together, the situation will soon get out of hand with all interested nations backing their own privately sponsored emigre organizations. Without entering into a discussion of whether Zog is the man to correct this situation, the danger is real and it should be useful and interesting to plumb Zog's intentions in this regard.

We have also been informed that Zog believes we can effectively capture control of the Albanian-American community in this country (given, of course, appropriate assistance by the US Government), and that he intends to make some proposal to you on this subject. As you know, the two major organizations in this country (Vatra and Free Albania) are both pro-communist - or at least pro-Hoxha - and are currently in friendly competition one with the other as to how to maintain their waning prestige among Albanian Americans. The religious issue also enters into this situation, inasmuch as the established Albanian-Orthodox church in this country is under the control of the pro-Hoxha elements, though their control is currently being contested by anti-communist elements led by a priest recently sent to this country by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Istanbul. Although the question of the Albanian community in this country is

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of definite importance - particularly at the present state of the civil war - in our efforts to encourage anti-communist elements in Albania itself, at such time as we are prepared to take more direct steps in reference to the liberation of Albania this problem will largely disappear since the primary element of strength enjoyed by the pro-communist groups is the unwillingness of the United States formally and publicly to commit itself to the territorial integrity of Albania. It is therefore suggested that, if Zog makes the rather audacious point that he can rally the Albanian community in this country, you point out that the vast majority of these people are American citizens whose primary loyalty is to this country, and endeavor to dismiss the subject in favor of discussion of larger and more important issues.

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